



## SENDING ANIMAL FIGHTERS ON THE RUN

**A****FTER A LONELY LIFE ON A CHAIN,** a dog eagerly soaks up attention from a rescuer. Same-day raids of fighting operations in Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia saved her and 366 other dogs from the fighting pit in August. The blitzkrieg yielded firearms, drugs, some \$500,000 in gambling proceeds and 14 suspects, who were later indicted on felony dogfighting charges. The HSUS and ASPCA carried the dogs to safety and helped authorities collect forensic evidence.

Based on leads phoned in to our tip line, The HSUS rescued hundreds of animals from fighting and assisted law enforcement officials in cases that led to more than 135 arrests. We also drove the passage of legislation to strengthen the federal animal fight-

ing law; it is now a federal crime to attend a dogfight or cockfight and a felony to bring a child to one.

In Costa Rica, Humane Society International joined law enforcement agencies as they carried out dogfighting raids, shutting down two breeding facilities and saving 147 animals. Many seized dogs were suspected of carrying bloodlines from the United States—animal fighters are crossing the border as it becomes tougher to operate in the U.S. The Costa Rica raids are the start of HSI moving against dogfighting internationally. “In the U.S., our investigation tools have dogfighters running,” says The HSUS’s Chris Schindler. “Now we have the opportunity to give dogfighters nowhere to run.”